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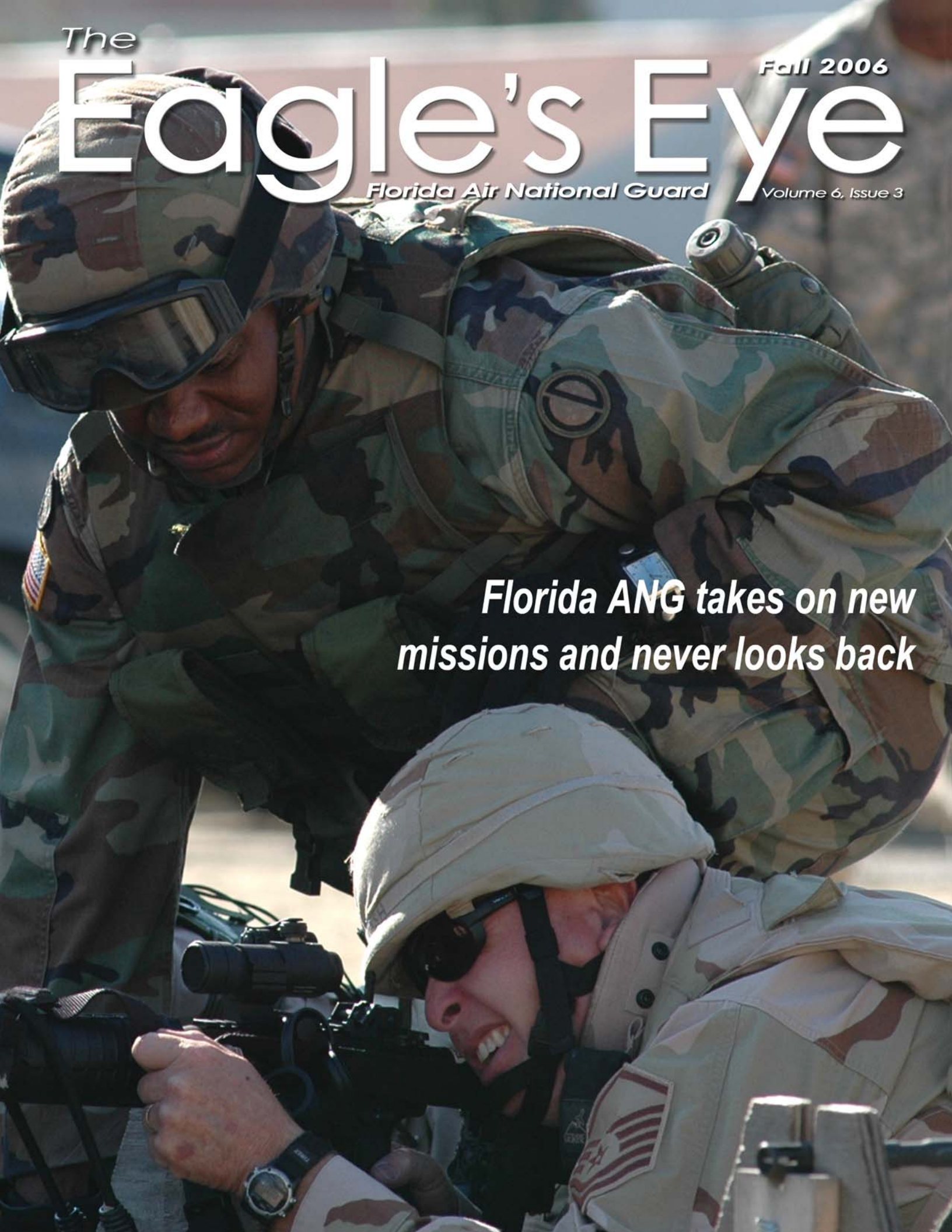
Eagle's Eye

Fall 2006

Florida Air National Guard

Volume 6, Issue 3

*Florida ANG takes on new
missions and never looks back*





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Front Cover: A 202RHS member trains on Army weapons and tactics at Fort McCoy, Wis. recently in preparation for an upcoming SWA deployment. Just one example of the FLANG pursuing excellence in a new and historic USAF mission.

Back Cover: No stranger to new missions, the FLANG's 114ROPS tests the then new BMRST system in Kodiak, Alaska in 2001.

Commander's Column

By Brig. Gen. Joseph G. Balskus
Assistant Adjutant General for Air
Commander, Florida Air National Guard

The Eagle's Eye magazine has once again served as our focal point for exciting events occurring at all of our units in the Florida Air National Guard. Thanks again to the 125FW Public Affairs staff for capturing every detail and showcasing our achievements accurately and professionally.

The cover is a representation of the FLANG maintaining the highest level of excellence amidst unprecedented and dissimilar mission demands.

Other organizations look to our state as a "standard for high performance" while seeking our "code" for success. We lead the nation in inspection results, while maintaining the highest level of readiness, and engaging fully in homeland support and GWOT tasking. Those who are a

part of our unique organization understand that the level of excellence demonstrated by us is possible because we employ consummate professionals who are passionate about securing our homeland and serving the cause of freedom around the globe. Thank you all for your superb dedication!

September was a historic month for our organization. We had two promotions at the General Officer level. September 8, Maj. Gen. Douglas Burnett, Adjutant General of Florida, pinned stars on the shoulders of Charles Campbell.

Brigadier Gen. Campbell will become a part of our headquarters team and occupy the position of Chief of Staff and Deputy Commander, FLANG. I am extremely excited to have his expertise and energy on the HQ team and look forward to working with him as we continue to move the FLANG forward.

Tuesday, Sept. 12, Maj. Gen. Burnett pinned the second star on someone who has served this organization as an exemplary professional since May 16, 1970; an individual who makes us all proud by continuing his career as the Air National Guard Advisor to the Commander, Air Combat Command. Major Gen. Emmett "Buddy" Titshaw was pinned at historic St Francis

Those who are a part of our unique organization understand that the level of excellence demonstrated by us is possible because we employ consummate professionals who are passionate about securing our homeland and serving the cause of freedom around the globe.

Barracks in front of many current and former members of our great organization. You will enjoy reading his story in this edition. Congratulations to Brig. Gen. Campbell and Maj. Gen. Titshaw!

I have established a State HQ committee to begin work on the 60th anniversary of the Florida Air National Guard. Many of you received our mailout asking for stories about our history. I am convinced and know many of you agree that we are totally negligent if we do not adequately capture our very special history of this organization. We will be



creating a FLANG history video and establishing a walk through museum of the past 60 years. Please answer our questionnaire and if you don't feel like writing or typing, contact us and we will arrange a time to meet with you. We have plans to unveil the video and open the museum in September, 2007. Additionally, we will celebrate with a gala affair Sept. 8, 2007.

During October, I participated in a national ANG committee meeting for strategic planning. The Integrated Planning Process (IPP), renamed Strategic Planning Process (SPP) has been re-energized by the ANG Director, Lt. Gen. Craig McKinley. The re-write got the "field" involved again and the forum now lends itself to strategic planning rather than tactical listening. I am very excited to participate in this.

As Brig. Gen. Campbell begins putting together our council meetings with senior officer and senior NCO input, we will also have strategic planning sessions to ensure we are adequately prepared for the future.



From the cockpit...

*By Major David W. Lynch
Chief, 125FW Weapons and Tactics*

You would have had a tough time noticing a difference at the 125th Fighter Wing in August, but for a four-day period, the 125th was training with a new infrared countermeasure designed to protect the F-15 Eagle from enemy heat-seeking missiles.

Flares dropped from the F-15 are visible for miles. But the new system, BOL IR, is tough for the eye to detect...but to an infrared-guided missile, it's the brightest thing in the sky!

Heat-seeking missiles have been around of decades. The basic design uses a lens that detects the heat generated by the jet engines of an aircraft. When the missile seeker 'sees' a hot enough object, compared to the background, the missile produces a tone to tell the pilot it's tracking a target.

The pilot then confirms the missile is tracking the correct target, confirms the target is within range, and shoots the missile. The missile has to continue tracking the target all the way through its time of flight, until it either hits the aircraft or gets close enough to fuse and explode. If at any point in that process the missile loses the infrared energy it's tracking, the missile will fail to complete the intercept.

As with any military capability, engineers try to counter to it. The first successful countermeasure

designed to protect aircraft from heat-seeking missiles was the flare.

When a pilot believes he's being targeted with an infrared missile, he drops a series of self-protection flares from his aircraft.

These flares are very hot and produce a tremendous bright spot of infrared energy which is very attractive to the missile seeker—these missile-seekers tend to track the hottest point. If the seeker starts tracking the flare anywhere in the process, from detection to tracking to impact, the missile is decoyed and the aircraft continues to fly and fight.

For years, this was the primary means of protecting aircraft.

But as I mentioned above, engineers searched for a way to counter those flares!

More and more modern missiles don't just track a point of infrared energy on an aircraft—they're sensitive enough to detect heat from various parts of the plane in addition to the engines.

So a single point of heat, a flare, 'looks' different to the missile than the aircraft, and these more advanced missiles know to ignore the bright, single-point flares and to continue tracking the aircraft.

Engineers worked to create a countermeasure that didn't just make a small bright spot; BOL IR

packets create a large infrared cloud that masks the heat characteristics of the entire aircraft!

When the USAF tested the BOL IR system, it was found to be very effective against the most modern infrared-guided missiles.

The Air National Guard (ANG), with the help of Maj. Gen. Douglas Burnett, the Adjutant General for Florida, took the lead on funding and fielding the system, with ANG F-15s being the first aircraft to train with the system in August.

General Burnett began the process of securing the more than \$34 million needed for the project back in 2001.

This funding did not include an additional \$9.5 million added for expendables and for the cockpit-pilot interface used to control the BOL system bringing the total funding requirement to nearly \$44 million.

Congress allocated the funding, with a powerful push from then Senator Bob Graham and US Rep. C. W. Bill Young, then procurement and installation began.

The BOL IR system is designed to fit in what would be 'wasted' space—the back end of rails which hold air-to-air missiles.

Maintenance weapons loaders install the BOL IR packets 16 at a time, with 160 fitting into each rail of four rails. The packets contain two sheets of plastic that sandwich a small, thin piece of metal.

When the rail is energized, it pushes the packets out of the back of the rail where they break apart in the wind stream. The thin metal strip

warms instantly when exposed to air, and the series of packets dispensed from each rail form the infrared cloud.

Interestingly, the packets are very difficult to see in the daytime; where flares burn very bright and hot in both the visual and the infrared spectrums, the BOL IR packets are nearly impossible to detect outside of a 1000 feet visual range. But heat-seeking missiles 'see' the packets from miles away.

For four days in August, 125FW F-15s loaded up two rails of BOL IR packets each sortie to train with the system.

Maintenance personnel reviewed the manuals discussing how to work with the packets for months, but this was their first time physically loading the packets and practicing their wartime skills. It is a bit unnerving to work with something that burns invisibly! Just to be safe, the fire department and explosive ordnance disposal team were close by. But thanks to the professionalism and attention to detail of the weapons load crews, the sorties went off without a problem.

For the pilots, this too was the first time actually dispensing the packets.

Because the system is so new, most of the sorties were set up to gather data on it—what the packets look like when dispensed, how far away you could see them in the daytime and nighttime, how effectively they decoyed our own heat-seeking missiles, etc.

What we found confirmed the testing done earlier by the Air Force—if someone is trying to shoot a heat-seeking missile at you; you want BOL IR on your jet!



Technical Sgt. Matthew Groves, 125AMXS Weapons Load Crew Chief, loads MJU-52 BOL IR expendables into the BOL Dispenser Rail on an F-15A Eagle at the 125th Fighter Wing, Jacksonville IAP, Fla. for a training sortie Friday, August 18, 2006. BOL IR is a countermeasure the fighter pilots use during combat to decoy heat seeking missiles. It was live fire tested for the first time at the 125FW August 15-18, 2006. Currently, only Air National Guard F-15's have this capability and the 125th was one of the first to install and test it.

Photo by Major Richard E. Bittner



FLANG supports Operation Jump Start

*By Capt. Lisa Ward
125MSF commander*

Nineteen Florida Air and 173 Army Guard members supported the United States Border Patrol on Entry Identification Teams (EIT) in Yuma, Ariz. for two weeks in August. The first Operation Jump Start mission supported by the Florida National Guard was an opportunity to perform in a true “joint” environment.

Operation Jump Start, an immediate, short-term, national security effort designed to strengthen border security, encourages the deterrence of illegals from crossing the border.

Part of Task Force Gila and referred to as Task Force Everglades for the duration of the mission, the 19 Florida Air National Guard members were part of a group responsible for setting up 18 sites that were manned 24 hours a day. Task Force Everglades, a combination of Army and Air Guard, served in the Yuma, Arizona Sector, which is the busiest sector in the United States.

“The EIT sites manned were approximately 50-150 meters from the border, provided on-ground visibility and served as a deterrent to the illegal aliens, drug runners and other illegal activities along the United States/Mexican border, according to Major Michael Stacks, commander for JTF Everglades.

Sometimes, during deployments of this nature, officers and enlisted find themselves performing duties they are unaccustomed to. For example, I served as the logistics officer, which was interesting and a definite challenge for me as a personnel officer and never being involved with the logistical aspects of a mission.

The logistics team handled everything from transportation, dining facility coordination, MRE’s, water distribution, supplies, barracks maintenance, weapons storage, refueling vehicles and anything else that was necessary to support the mission.

“It was amazing to watch the 192 Florida Guardsmen come together as a team and perform in an exceptional manner,” added Stacks, a fireman from Miami with more than 20 years experience in the Guard.

Border Patrol agents commented that they were amazed by the Florida team and thought that the members had all come from the same unit. In reality, there were approximately ten Florida National Guard units represented. With a motto of “It’s all good,” they were able to maintain a positive focus from the day they arrived until the day they left Arizona.



Early evening sunset in Yuma, Arizona
(Photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael D. Monzelun)



Two Guard members are silhouetted against the morning sky while on duty along the U.S.-Mexico border, near Yuma, Ariz. The Guardsmen are working as part of an EIT – Entry Identification Team – along the border, providing an extra set of eyes and ears for the U.S. Border Patrol. The National Guard is working along the southern U.S. Border as part of Operation Jump Start. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Dan Heaton)



The arrival of National Guard members for Operation Jump Start, such as the ones above, has helped the Border Patrol slash vehicle maintenance times, meaning more eyes and ears on the border with Mexico. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael D. Monzelun.)

Background photo by Staff Sgt. Dan Heaton

SEADS transformation continues

It's back to school and the course is "AOC 101"

By Major David "Buford" Garner
SEADS/1AF COAC

The FLANG is beginning the formidable task of transforming the Southeast Air Defense Sector (SEADS) into the 1AF Combined Air Operations Center (CAOC). For the purpose of this article we will use the acronym AOC, but we really are a CAOC due to our contingent of Canadian forces as part of the NORAD mission.

Since May 2004 there has been a small group of SEADS personnel integrated into the AOC. Our initial cadre of personnel was placed there to advance our education, complete formal basic and advanced AOC courses and support the current processes in the various divisions. As we begin to take charge of the AOC

processes there will be a need for our personnel in and outside the facility to have a better understanding of the Air Tasking Cycle. The goal of this article is to build a macro view of the Air Tasking Cycle and how we as the FLANG will play a key role in the creation, tasking and execution of Homeland Defense as well as Homeland Security missions.

The Air Tasking Order (ATO) Cycle is designed to ensure a unity of effort, and an effective and efficient employment of air assets. We break the cycle into six key portions: Strategy Development, Target Development, Master Air Attack Plan-

ning, ATO Production, Execution, and Assessments. Each team has vital inputs that are required to keep the ATO Cycle moving to support the overall mission.

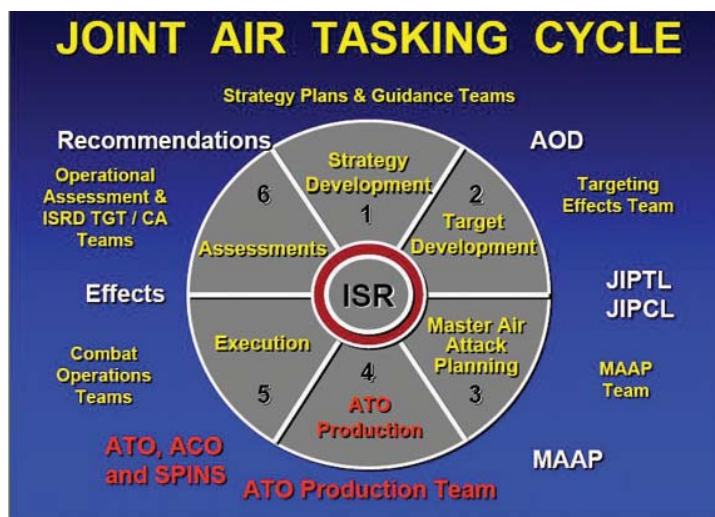
Strategy Development initially begins with the Joint Force Commander (JFC) consulting with each of the component commanders to assess the progress of the war fighting ef-

Directive (AOD). The AOD is the JFACC's game plan for the ATO to be created and executed, in order to meet JFC objectives as well as his own. AOD's can be published on a daily, weekly or even a monthly timeline based on the mission demands. Once approved and signed by the JFACC, the AOD is published on the AOC websites for the widest dissemination possible.

Next, target development takes place within the AOC by an Intelligence Target Development Team. Each component nominates target sets or individual targets that are matched to the prioritized air tasks set forth in the AOD from the earlier strategy development session. Once all inputs are received the team creates a product called Target Nomi-

nation List (TNL). The TNL will be given to the Targeting Effects Team (TET) for review and once again placed in order to meet the prioritized air tasks, end product becoming the draft Joint Integrated Prioritized Target List (JIPTL). The TET Chief will then present the list to the JFACC one on one for approval or amendment as needed. Following JFACC approval, the Target Development Team inputs the JIPTL into the Theater Battle Management Core Systems (TBMCS) to begin the Master Air Attack Planning (MAAP) process.

The MAAP Team will place assets against each of the targets off the JIPTL on a TBMCS



worksheet, which is a draft build of the ATO. Once the MAAP Team completes the worksheet inputs, the ATO Production Team merges this data with Special Instructions (SPINS), command and control, and airspace control taskings. We finally have the product we know as the ATO, and the ATO Production will then conduct a line by line review before it is electronically transmitted to the forces in the field.

Tasked units then breakout the ATO for their specific missions and this begins the execution phase of the cycle. During execution, Combat Operations will conduct the flying

business for the JFACC from the AOC operations floor. They monitor all tasked missions, publish any changes to the ATO in execution and execute any Time Sensitive Taskings (TST) required. Also, while the ATO is in execution, operational and battle damage assessments are conducted and the master target database is updated.

As the ATO cycle completes its flow, the Operational Assessments Team (OAT) determines the effectiveness of execution in relation to the operational objectives set forth by the JFC. The OAT may recommend modifications or changes to upcoming air taskings or adjust the allocation

of resources, for the next ATOs. These recommendations will be presented to the Strategy Division Chief for approval and then presented to the JFACC at the next Strategy Development meeting.

As I stated in the beginning, the goal of this article was to give a basic understanding of FLANG involvement in the 1 AF CAOC. The missions we are tasked with are normally defensive in nature, so not all aspects of the ATO cycle will apply. Future plans development for NORTHCOM may change and the offensive planning piece will potentially be a tasking we are required to execute.

159th Fighter Squadron Change of Command

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Eric H. Keith



The 159th Fighter Squadron leadership changed hands Friday, Sept. 15, when Lt. Col. Tom “Kooch” Cucchi relinquished command to Lt. Col. Robert “Rufio” Wetzel (pictured right preparing to accept the squadron flag.) The time honored traditional passing of the guide-on ceremony, hosted by Col. Scott K. Stacy (above left), 125th Fighter Wing commander, was conducted in the 125th Fighter Wing maintenance hangar with several of Wetzel’s family members and friends on hand to celebrate the occasion with him. Wetzel thanked the Wing leadership for the trust they have placed in him for offering him this most honored command. Wetzel said it was a life long dream to command a fighter squadron and pledged not to squander the opportunity and trust that were bestowed upon him by Wing leadership.

290th Airmen prepare for Middle East deployment



Technical Sgt. Jason Sanders qualifies on the 9MM pistol Sept. 5. in preparation for his upcoming deployment.

*By Master Sgt. Troy H. Herr
290JCSS UPAR*

Photo by Master Sgt. Mike Primovic

MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. - Master Sgt. Denise Hicks wiped a tear from her eye as the last of the 290th Joint Communications Support Squadron (JCSS) personnel boarded their flights to Iraq and Afghanistan, Sept. 19.

Hicks was assigned the daunting task of ensuring all requirements for the deploying members were scheduled, rescheduled and completed. She had done her job and now it was time for the nearly 15 deploying troops to do their jobs in helping our nation defeat terrorism by providing a means for our commanders to communicate.

"How much training can we pack into one month? How much gear is too much? Do the Airmen have everything they need?" These are some of the questions running through the minds of the 290JCSS full-time staff as they train, equip and deploy Airmen to Afghanistan and Iraq.

Unlike active duty squadrons that are composed primarily of full-time personnel, the Air National Guard normally activates its members and, in a very short period of time, trains, equips and moves them out.

According to Hicks, "You take four months of training and condense it into one month before

they deploy; (it's) a very hectic and stressful schedule, but we did it!"

The unit members were deployed in small teams to multiple locations and are scheduled to return after the winter holidays. That one month pre-deployment training allowed for those team members to become familiar with each other and their skill sets.

"We have confident, capable teams going out there that know each other, care about each other, and can get the job done," said Lt. Col. Loretta Lombard, 290JCSS commander. "And we are here supporting them and their families throughout the mission."

The training involved is not just familiarization with communications equipment, but also includes force protection, weapons, and "Ability to Survive and Operate" (ATSO) training.

The members spent a week convoying to and from Camp Blanding Joint Training Center near Starke, Fla., and going through realistic training scenarios on the ranges during their "spin-up."

The Airmen also addressed critical personal issues such as wills and powers of attorney and had a one-day session with their families to address family support and related matters.



Staff Sgt's. Jonathan Pavan and Frank Galletti of the 290th Joint Communication Support Squadron train on some very old communication equipment they expect to be using in their deployed environment Sept. 12, before deploying to southwest Asia.

Photo by Master Sgt. Troy H. Herr



Photos by Master Sgt. Shaun W. Withers

Members of the 125FW and WRTC instructors and students were treated to "incentive flights" aboard KC-135 air refueling missions July 19-20, when a 434ARW tanker from Grissom ARB, Ind. deployed here to support 125FW F-15 aerial refueling training mission requirements.



FLANG enlisted corps: the backbone of Team Tyndall

By Col. Billy T. Graham, Jr.
325FW ANG Associate Unit commander

TYNDALL AFB, Fla.—As Air Force leaders see Total Force initiatives as a must for the future, the 325FW Associate Unit here has been setting the standard for seven years.

Along with world-class flying instruction, the six FLANG enlisted members dispersed throughout the F-15C and F-22A squadrons have been the backbone of ANG and active duty operations here. The footprints of the enlisted force within the 325th Associate Unit can be seen throughout Tyndall, with personnel attached to the 1st, 2nd, and 95th Fighter Squadrons (FS), as well as the 325th Operations Support Squadron (OSS).

Just like the instructor pilots, the enlisted force operates seamlessly within the squadrons and the student pilots rarely realize the great support they are receiving is from the FLANG enlisted corp.

Master Sgt. Ron Harris, the leader of the enlisted corps, provides commander support, Orderly Room functions and is responsible for the transition of personnel to the unit and overall management of reports and training.

Due to critical active duty reductions in both enlisted and civilian support staff, the FLANG enlisted corps becomes a key force multiplier going above and beyond the “normal” work requirements supporting the AGR and DSG instructor force. Normally, NCO’s would simply act as Workday Control Officers, ensuring that inactive pay forms and active pay work orders are accomplished. But these troops also track Officer Performance Reports from start to finish, act as Security Managers, Fitness Monitors, and Leave Web Administrators, just to name a few.

Technical Sgt. Virginia Boak, attached to the 325OSS as NCOIC Host Aviation Records Management, maintains all aircrew member flight



Photo by Lt. Diamond Cookson

Technical Sgt. Sherri Stanfill, 325FW Associate Unit 1FS Information Manager, works at her desk in the 1FS orderly room.

records from a pilot’s first flight to a pilot’s retirement record. She currently maintains more than 500 pilot and aircrew flight records. Boak is also the primary flight coordinator for the 325FW incentive flight program and is primary supervisor to many active duty subordinates within her office. Because of her experience, ability and depth of knowledge she is also the assigned OJT Trainer within her career field on base.

With great people come great rewards, and as a result, FLANG enlisted troops have been formally recognized by their active duty squadrons for their “whatever it takes to get the mission accomplished” attitude. The hard work by this dedicated cadre has garnered such recognition as NCO of the Quarter, Staff Professional NCO of the Quarter, and nominations for NCO of the Year - active duty accolades given to dedicated Total Force, mission oriented warriors.

All members of the Associate Unit participate in Wing Exercises and Operational Readiness Exercises alongside their active duty counterparts. Needless to say, the 325FW Associate Unit plays a vital role in the concept of Total Force and is vital to the accomplishment of the Air Dominance mission at Tyndall.

The synergy between the 325FW Associate Unit and active duty personnel makes it hard to segregate the two. The cohesive team formed by the enlisted members in the Associate Unit continues to benefit both components in all aspects of training and operations.

The FLANG enlisted corps are a unit that is dispersed throughout Tyndall AFB, Florida, but well unified as Team Tyndall members with one goal in mind—“to support the folks who train the world’s premiere fighter pilots.”

BMRST formal certification on track

By Capt. Matthew Giles
114ROPS

The Florida Air National Guard's 114th Range Operations Squadron's (114 ROPS) Ballistic Missile Range Safety Technology (BMRST) will be completing formal certification testing at NASA's Wallops Island, Va. test facility in October 2006.

The purpose of this certification is to ensure the BMRST can operate at a nearly flawless 99 percent confidence level. NASA envisions using the BMRST in the future to augment one of its existing sites or provide range safety for a unique launch configuration that may take a launch vehicle outside the normal range infrastructure.

To ensure the BMRST system operates at this very high level of confidence, NASA will conduct more than 200 simulation exercises, scrutinizing everything between setup and teardown. These certifications will consist of sending a variety of range data to the BMRST simulating various rocket launches and failures. The BMRST will then capture the data it, recorded it and play it back to NASA's range control at Wallops Island where it will be compared to the Wallops Island "truth" data and any differences will be noted.

"This certification represents a significant milestone for BMRST to be formally accepted into the Air Force inventory, testing has already been accomplished at Cape Canaveral AFS, White Sands, N.M. and Kodiak Island, Alaska." said Major Todd Oller, 114ROPS Director of Operations. "During these tests, the BMRST system has met or exceeded many of the capabilities of existing systems." Chief Master Sgt. Leigh Dumas, the maintenance superintendent for the 114 ROPS said, "If all goes well, NASA will use the BMRST to support the TACSAT-2 launch."

The BMRST system was designed to be a self sustained, mobile and redundant range safety system capable of worldwide deployment. It operates with a crew of six Guardsmen.

114th members win prestigious award

Three of the Florida's own were part of a 45th Space Wing team to garner the Air Force Association's "Best Space Operations Crew" award and received honors during the AFA national conference's opening ceremonies in Washington DC Sept. 25.

Major Julia Black, Capt. Todd Smith and Tech. Sgt. Greg Jones, 114ROPS, were part of the 45SW team as 1ROPS crew members, responsible for the successful launch and recovery of Space Shuttle Discovery mission STS-114.

Black was the Range Coordinator who worked as the 45SW liaison to NORTHCOM and was responsible for coordinating range operations interface for NASA and

other DOD missions. Smith was the Surveillance Control Officer (SCO) who ensured the launch hazard areas were clear of all maritime vessels and aircraft prior to launch.

responsible for ensuring the special use airspace was clear prior to launch and making sure mission support aircraft were at their safe hold points at launch time.



Photo courtesy of the 114ROPS

Technical Sgt. Greg Jones, second from the left, and Maj. Julia Black, far right, 114ROPS, are pictured with other AFA honoree's and officials Sept. 25 in Washington DC.

He worked closely with the US Coast Guard to protect civilian and mission support vessels.

Jones was the Aerospace Control Officer (ACO) and was

Florida." nauts. AFA proudly presents its best space operations crew award to the team from the 45th Space Wing, Patrick AFB, Florida."

Medical Group operates in storm scenario

*Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Thomas E. Kielbasa
Florida National Guard Public Affairs*

SAVANNAH, Ga. – When a major disaster occurs, one of the best tools at the disposal of emergency managers is cooperation.

A recent disaster exercise held near Savannah, Ga., tested that premise to judge how well a cooperative effort between eight states would fare if a hurricane landfall caused a medical nightmare in the Southeast.

During the Region IV Medical Readiness Exercise Sept. 18-21, military personnel from across the Southeast – including 13 from the Florida Air National Guard's 125th Medical Group – practiced providing emergency medical support to scores of hurricane victims.

The scenario was simple: a category three hurricane caused significant flooding and damage in Georgia's coastal region, and the widespread destruction included water contamination and a chemical spill.

The responding medical personnel were given the task of taking care of the sick and injured by working together in a joint



Major Steve Edwards (left) from the 125th Medical Group examines a "hostile sniper with a gunshot wound" played by Staff Sgt. Mark Thompson of the Georgia State Defense Force, during the South East Region IV Exercise 2006 in Savannah, Ga., Sept. 19.



Because a massive disaster could yield a high number of fatalities, Airmen participating in the South East Region IV Exercise in Savannah, Ga., don protective gear during training when handling "corpses," Sept. 19.

civilian, governmental, and military emergency medical site.

The exercise was held at the ANG's Combat Readiness Training Center, mainly within a series of connected temperature-controlled tents. Inside the tents medical personnel from different Air Guard units interacted seamlessly in temporary emergency rooms, operating rooms, and even a morgue.

On the afternoon of Sept. 19, Major Steve Edwards of the 125th Medical Group examined a patient with a "gunshot wound" in his arm; as part of the exercise.

The patient was a terrorist sniper who was shot during a standoff with police, adding more chaos to the hurricane scenario.

Edwards is also a nurse practitioner at Shands Hospital in Jacksonville, and appeared



Above: Senior Airman Davina Kleinschnitz (left) of the 125th Medical Group discusses information about a "patient."

Right: Petty Officer 1st Class Tony Ariola, an aviation survival technician with the U.S. Coast Guard, discusses the capabilities of the HH65C helicopter (background) with Master Sgt. Brenda Cline of the 125th Medical Group.

well-acquainted with the tempo of an emergency room.

"Do you know who shot you?" Edwards asked while escorting the patient to a field hospital operating table. "American pigs!" the patient – played by Sgt. Mark Thompson of the Georgia State Defense Force – shouted in a passable eastern-European accent.

Edwards ignored the hostility of his patient and carefully examined the gunman's bicep made up to look like a gunshot wound. "We're going to take care of you," Edwards said stoically, unfazed by the remark.

In a nearby tent designated "Ward No. 1," Senior Airman Davina Kleinschnitz of the 125th Medical Group examined a mannequin of a young girl with a wrist injury.

"This is a good experience to learn how we would handle these situations if they really hap-

pened," Kleinschnitz, a medical assistant from Melbourne, said.

"This is also a good experience to see how everyone from different units work together...We work well together and we forget that we come from different units."

Representatives Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, and North Carolina participated in the exercise. According to exercise coordinators, the medical personnel at the site examined about 100 patients per day, and more than 300 for the entire exercise.



202nd prepares to deploy for a new kind of mission

By Staff Sgt. Bill Nicholls
202RHS UPAR

The 202nd RED HORSE Squadron is ramping up for a ten-month deployment to the Middle East, making it the latest Florida Air National Guard unit to mobilize for the Global War on Terrorism.

Thirty-five 202nd RED HORSE Airmen left Camp Blanding Sept. 12, for Combat Skills Training at Fort McCoy, Wis., and were followed on Oct. 16 by the main body of nearly 100 additional Airmen. Since they will be taking over a traditional Army mission, they are being trained by Army instructors.

Squadron commander Col. Jack Paschal said missions and locations will be diverse: "Afghanistan, Qatar, Iraq; that's where we'll be. RED HORSE builds things. We'll be working on runways, K-spans, paving roads, and working in mountainous areas. We're going in lieu of

Army forces to Iraq. We are required to have around 400 Air Force personnel in the Iraqi theater. The other 150 people will be in Qatar, Afghanistan, the Horn of Africa, wherever we're needed."



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas

Sergeant 1st Class Terry Oelfke, a weapons training instructor with the 85th Weapons Training Team, talks to Staff Sgt. James Waters (standing) and Senior Airman Douglas Shick, about the targets Shick is aiming at before firing the MK-19 Grenade Launcher. Shick and Waters are part of the 202nd REDHORSE Squadron ADVON Team and were training at Fort McCoy before deploying to Iraq for a combat engineering mission there.

RED HORSE is an acronym for Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers, and the unit's mission is to provide a highly mobile, rapidly deployable civil engineering response force which can perform heavy damage repair for recovery of critical Air Force facilities. At Fort McCoy, they are learning more about

combat engineering, skills that will be necessary to survive in a hostile environment. At the September drill prior to deployment, RED HORSE Airmen received a three-hour briefing from Master

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas



Technical Sgt. Leo Rogers and Master Sgt. Maria Ratliff clear their weapons after returning from convoy training at Fort McCoy. Rogers and Ratliff were part of the 202RHS advance (ADVON) team that departed for Iraq Oct. 13.

Sgt. Michael Merritt of Shaw Air Force Base on threats in the Middle East.

"The threat's a little different today, because people are in a wider variety of locations, in smaller teams," he said.

"They're at greater risk than in the past. Never let your guard down. Use the battle buddy concept, the wingman concept—look out for each other. Looking out for each other is the most important thing."

Merritt also suggested Airmen about to deploy do as much reading and research as possible.

Merritt's own survival kit included knives, compass, signal mirror, various lighting devices, a GPS, an "asp" baton, and other items. Research has indicated that if a survival kit is not physically part of an Airman's uniform, he or she will not have time to access the equipment in an emergency.

The RED HORSE Airmen deploying is a combination of war veterans and those who have never served overseas. Senior Airman David Munoz (202nd HVAC technician) has never been to the Middle East: "I'm nervous and excited at the same time. This is my first deployment. I work

at the Jacksonville Sheriff's office, and they support me 100 percent. My family is worried about me, but its life, and the job I've chosen. My family supports me also."

The one month training program at Fort McCoy was a mix of classroom and field training, and included instruction in the .50 caliber machine gun, grenade launchers, navigation, and convoy movement.

The activation is a joint effort with the 202nd and 203rd (Virginia Beach, Va.) RED HORSE, a sister squadron; Air National Guard Prime Beef personnel; along with active duty USAF personnel; totaling approximately 560 Airmen.

The 202nd/203rd served together previously during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003, plus an Op-

erational Readiness Exercise in October 2005, and an Operational Readiness Inspection in February 2006—all of which were rated as successful. The 202nd completed the ORE/ORI in Virginia, on the heels of a more than 60-day activation in Mississippi for Hurricane Katrina.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Thomas Kielbasa



Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Steve Thompson holds up his unique body armor at Fort McCoy, Wis., Oct. 19. As the Crown Point Baptist Church senior pastor, Thompson received a unique "blessing" from his Jacksonville, Fla., congregation: the members took black markers and autographed the inside of his Interceptor Body Armor vest with more than one hundred Bible verses.

FLANG facility upgrades on the horizon

Building today for a better tomorrow



By Major Pedro J. Santiago
125FW Base Civil Engineer

During the last four years, the FLANG has witnessed an aggressive effort to upgrade its facilities and infrastructure. These upgrades are a result of several years of planning and the collaboration of many people and organizations such as our base and State leadership, the United States Property and Fiscal Office for Florida, the Air National Guard Civil Engineering Directorate, and the 125th Civil Engineer Squadron staff in partnership with several local and national architect-engineering firms and contractors.

Since 2001 the FLANG has executed a significant amount of resources in military construction, sustainment, restoration and modernization funds including TAG supported congressional adds, totaling more than 60 projects that have made a direct impact to our quality of life and mission. Notable projects are the new fire station and apparatus bay, the C-130 aircraft parking apron, airfield repairs and taxiway Mike 4 widening, HAZMART facility, LOX facility, ASE storage facility and new standing seam metal roofs on most of our buildings. Some of the completed

infrastructure support projects include a base-wide duct bank and manhole system to support new communications cabling, and electrical system upgrades to replace antiquated transformers, switch stations and cabling that date back to the mid 1960's. During the next five years we will continue to upgrade our infrastructure, build new facilities and bring the base up to current anti-terrorism and force protection standards. In addition, we will support facility upgrades to the 290th Joint Communications Support Squadron and, also, the 114th Range Operations Squadron as they embark on their new mission. Some notable projects that will be completed in the next year include:



Two FLANG facility projects currently under construction are the new 125FW Base Entry complex (top of page) and the 125FW Corrosion Control Facility (above).

125FW F-15 Corrosion Control Facility:

This facility will provide the 125th with a state of art 10,600 square foot facility to wash, prepare surface and paint F-15 fighters. Estimated completion is April, 2007.

125FW Base Entrance: A project that will provide the 125th with a new base entrance including a guard house with vehicle cover and truck inspection area. The project will also relocate the base entrance road away from the Wing Headquarters and provide infrastructure to

support pop-up barriers to comply with current anti-terrorism and force protection standards. Estimated completion is October 2006.

125FW Alert Aircraft Shelters Repairs: This facility upgrade will repair structural corrosion, bring the facilities up to current hurricane wind load codes and replace lightening protection systems to bring them up to safety standards.

290JCSS Mobility Storage Addition: This addition of 2,800 square feet to the existing mobility storage facility will provide the required space to store state of the art communications equipment and personal mobility gear.

Other projects in the pipeline include:

125FW Dining Facility Addition and Renovation: This project will add 2,450 square feet and renovate the existing dining facility to bring it up to current codes and standards. Renovations will include reconfiguration of the interior floor plan, replacement of the air conditioning and heating, plumbing and electrical systems. The facility will be fully sprinkled to bring it up to current fire protection codes.

The addition will include increased seating space, new restrooms and classroom and services office. The project will also increase stand off distances around the dining facility to comply with anti-terrorism and force protection criteria.

The project is expected to be awarded in early fiscal year 2007.

125FW Aircraft Hangar Renovation: This project will completely renovate, reconfigure, and bring the hangar facility up to current codes and standards to include roof, fire protection and hangar door systems replacement. This project will also increase stand off distances around the hangar facility to comply with anti-terrorism and force protection criteria. This project will be phased over three years with Phase I programmed to be awarded by mid fiscal year 2007.

The following projects are currently in the programming stages:

125FW Aircraft Fuel Cell (Bldg 1029) Renovation: This project is programmed for fiscal year 2009 and is scheduled to entirely renovate, reconfigure, and bring the facility up to current codes and standards. Design efforts will start in fiscal year 2007.

125FW Jet Fuel Storage Complex: This is a Defense Logistics Agency project to replace the existing POL complex. The project will pull existing underground fuel tanks off the ground and replace them with two 100,000 above ground tanks, provide loading and off loading areas, pump house, operations building and refueler parking. The project is programmed to be initiated in fiscal year 2010.

290JCSS Operations & Training Facility Renovations: This project is scheduled for fiscal year 2010 and is programmed to renovate, reconfigure, and bring the facility up to current codes and standards, to include anti-terrorism and force protection. The project will also replace the existing heating and air conditioning system.

125FW Water Infrastructure Upgrades: This project, programmed for fiscal year 2010, is set to upgrade the base water utility system to meet current state and local codes, USAF, and ANG standards.

Work involves excavation, removing old lines, or abandoning in place dependent on pipe condition, installing new piping and hydrants, and all service connections to make a closed loop system.

The work includes water storage reservoirs, pumps, the installation of backflow preventions, water meters, shutoff valves, and fire hydrants as required.

Repairs to 125FW Taxiways and Aprons: This project, programmed for fiscal year 2011, will bring the airfield up to current USAF standards, widen taxiways and eliminate airfield obstructions.

The following future projects are awaiting funding:

125FW Communications Facility: This facility, when funded, will provide a 13,100 square foot facility to replace existing aging and undersized communications and audiovisual facilities at the 125th Fighter Wing.

This project will also relocate affected parking lots to bring the facility up to current anti-terrorism and force protection criteria. Project will be designed by February 2007.

125FW Security Forces and Base Support Complex: This 39,330 square foot facility, when funded, will house security forces, CATM, CATS, Services Flight, Honor Guard, Fitness Center, Explosive Ordnance and Civil Engineer Readiness.

290JCSS Vehicle Maintenance Facility: This project, when funded, will provide the 290th with a state of the art 7,800 square foot vehicle maintenance facility to support their fleet maintenance.

Our base civil engineering staff is excited to work with all our partners and users to bring this challenge to fruition. Our pride and dedication to the Florida Air National Guard mission is the fuel that powers us to put in the extra time and energy required to meet these challenges. We look forward to all these current and future programs and want to be part of this huge effort, which we all can be proud to be a part of.

STARBASE director thankful for staff

*By Mr. Gregory Stritch
Director, STARBASE Florida*

Recently one of our visiting teachers asked if we had a good relationship with our administration. She meant our principle and grade level administrators. She apparently was having difficulty with hers. I told her that Darcy, Karen, Al and I had a pretty good rapport with everyone from the director to the office and finance administrators. I didn't tell her that Darcy, Karen, Al and I are the directors, the office and finance administrators. . . and the teachers, the janitors, the grant writers, the curriculum writers, the in-service trainers, the web designers, artists, cooks and bottle washers...

At STARBASE we have a wonderful staff with broad gift sets and the ability to get several projects underway at once and keep all the plates in the air until realizing closure. In addition to multitask abilities and near missionary zeal for our awesome scholars, this year our team has enjoyed some historical firsts. We received our first Grant Award from Raytheon for their Math Heroes program as well as a grant from the Air Force Association. STARBASE began running double classes, thanks to Col. Stacy giving us the use of Building 18 at Alert. We will be able to serve twice the number of low income Title 1 schools as before and reach more children than ever with the second STARBASE classroom.

We began our first partnership with local Air Force JROTC programs, placing flight simulation hardware and curriculum in eight high schools in the four-county area. Steadman Pottinger in Recruiting set it all up and made it happen becoming our adopted STARBASE Instructor-at-large.

This year STARBASE staff will be facilitating their first Teacher Workshops and In-Service training for Duval County Public Schools. DCPS teachers will earn points for certification and be trained in dynamic hands-on inductive math and science strategies, addressing most of the FCAT math and science benchmarks and helping them to reach their acceptable yearly progress (AYP) goals in accordance with the Presidents 'No Child Left Behind' Act.

All of our 'firsts' this year steamed from the unprecedented support received from the Wing and our leadership at State HQ. We'd need the entire Eagle's Eye to detail all the friends on the base who make Starbase happen on a daily basis! Other firsts this year include partnerships with the Civil Air Patrol 383 Composite Squadron (which originated at the 125th), FCCJ, the Airport Authority, JU and North Florida Flight Center.

Look to future Eagle's Eye articles for other ground breaking firsts with Team STARBASE.

125SFS "dirty dozen" finally come home after six months of desert duty

The 125th Fighter Wing celebrated the return of 13 of its own late Friday night Aug. 25, 2006. Seven months to the day the 13 Airmen departed Jacksonville International Airport in a large sendoff to support the GWOT efforts in Iraq, the group was welcomed home by family and friends in a similar fashion. Even local airport travelers stopped, waited and applauded the return of the group affectionately dubbed "the dirty dozen."

The JIA USO was on hand and provided tons of food and drink for the returning troops and their families. The returning heroes are: Master Sgt. Michael J. Seger, NCOIC, Master Sgt. Arthur C. Busch, Master Sgt. Michael J. Nettles, Staff Sgt. Harold D. Bergeron, Staff Sgt. Timothy W. Bedingfield, Staff Sgt. Glenn T. Fritch, Staff Sgt. Thomas E. Hollis, Jr., Staff Sgt. Alan R. Manges, Staff Sgt. Charles W. Wilkie, Jr., Senior Airman Donald J. Handfield, Senior Airman Antwan L. Stewart, Airman First Class Louis M. Tutt IV. Welcome home gentlemen and thanks for a job well done!



Photo by Major Kevin T. Cotton

FLANGRA, AFA Falcon Chapter news

By Ernie Webster
FLANGRA President

Dear fellow retiree's, friends and AFA Falcon Chapter members,

By the time you read this we will be enjoying the fall season and will have savored another semi-annual dinner together at the NAS JAX "O" Club. The menu was Surf and Turf that we all always enjoy.

The speaker was Mr. Greg Stitch from the FLANG STARBASE Program. The AFA Falcon Chapter has been doing some exciting things and several award presentations were made to our outstanding members.

This meeting marked a change of command in the FLANGRA and served as my last meeting as president. Don Bunk is our new president and Karen Strandberg is our new vice president. Jack Stuart will continue as the secretary / treasury.

I want to thank each and every one of you for your interest and attendance at our dinners. A special thanks to "Col. K." A small tribute to Frank Kozdras without whom, we could not have been as successful without his input and help throughout the years. Frank is a "one of a kind" and I really appreciate his help and friendship.

Our April dinner had a record attendance of 130 folks and we hope to continue these numbers as we enter a new year. Speaking of our dinners, I'll leave you with a note from Brig. Gen. (Ret) Homer H. Humphries, Jr., as a point of reflection from a retired Air Guardsman:

"The last part of August I attended funeral services for David Pais. He was a friendly, dedicated, patriotic and good man. He lived a long, good life. He loved the Air Guard and its people. I had coffee with him a number of times at the base and each time enjoyed his company and most intelligent conversations. I remember his active and consistent participation in the retiree dinners.

As I sat in the Chapel before the ceremony I looked around the room at a number of folks with grey hair, and in some instances, little hair. All were there to pay tribute to one of their own. My mind wandered, to reflect back to all of those already having taken their last flight: Wayne Nordlie, Bill Whittaker, Smiley Southwell, Tom Teate, Paul Hall, Andy Andrews and a host of others, all of those we considered friends and buddies during our military careers.

These were all good friends and wonderful people. I feel fortunate to have known them, together with all the others over the past 50 years or so. That is also the reason I tried hard not to miss any of the dinners we have already enjoyed. I will likewise try just as hard not missing those in the future."

USAF JROTC

The 125th Fighter Wing hosted two base tours for the USAF JROTC cadets from West Nassau High School Tuesday Sept. 12. Approximately 65 cadets visited the 125FW and toured various sections of the base, 30 in the morning and 35 later that afternoon. The tours included an F-15 static review, a C-130 static review, a security and weapons review and a recruiting brief. Colonel (USAF ret) Don Kline instructs more than 100 cadets in the program based in the rural community of Callahan, Fla.

Pictured right, Master Sgt. Michael S. Ramsey, 125AMXS First Sgt. amazes some of the young cadets with his knowledge of the inner workings of the mighty F-15 Eagle. Pictured far right, one of the tour groups poses outside the 125FW C-130 after checking out the cavernous interior.



Photos by Major Richard E. Bittner

News from HQ

A conversation with Maj. Gen. Emmett R. Titshaw

*By Major Richard E. Bittner
125FW Director of Public Affairs*

Recently, I had the opportunity to speak with Maj. Gen. Emmett R. Titshaw as he assumes his new role as Air National Guard Assistant to the Commander, Air Combat Command (COMACC).

We talked about his early years in Jacksonville; his FANG career; his success; his passion; and how he sees his role unfolding in his new job.

Titshaw was born and raised in Jacksonville and has served his entire military career as a Guard member. His childhood home was located on land near Terrell Road (named after his grandfather) and a mere stone's throw from the 125th Fighter Wing's present location.

As a young man, Titshaw loved to watch commercial and military airplanes take off and land at Imeson Airport near his home.

This sparked an interest in aviation that never died.

While attending Auburn University and participating in the USAF ROTC Engineering Program there, Titshaw received a phone call from a friend in the 125th who said "they're in need of pilots, they've placed a want-ad out for pilots, come to the organization and apply."

The following Saturday, the General drove from Auburn to the FANG base and signed up that day. He gave up his ROTC scholarship, finished his engineering degree on his own, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Early on Titshaw served as a full time FANG alert pilot in Jacksonville and New Orleans. In 1977, he applied for a technician position as a flight instructor and later pursued the chief of safety position. In November 1978, he left the full time ranks to fly for National Airlines, later Pan Am and then Delta.

In later years, Titshaw commanded the 159th Fighter Squadron and the 125th Fighter Wing. He subsequently served as the FLANG Chief of Staff and followed that position by serving as the Assistant Adjutant General-Air, Florida National Guard. He achieved all of this as a traditional Guardsman, a particularly successful career in my view.

In talking with the General, I realized he was not of the same opinion. Titshaw believes you cannot really measure success until you get down the road, look backwards, and see your starting point. He said, "Success is probably judged best by your peers."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Shelley R. Gill

For him, success is making a difference, applying whatever talents you have, trying to take care of people, improving military effectiveness and, finally, having a vision and seeing it come to reality.

I also asked the General about his passion. He cares deeply about the situation (GWOT) we as a nation, find ourselves in today.

He believes all of us must understand what we are facing, appreciate what it will take to defeat the enemy, and the need to help our fellow citizens understand the task ahead.

Regarding his new position at ACC, I asked the General how he would handle working on a daily basis with the four-star general that runs the largest command in the United States Air Force. With more than 45,000 Air National Guard members assigned; it's a very large piece of the ANG; it's about 42 percent.

Said Titshaw, "ACC has many complex missions so it's a pretty huge responsibility." He added, "I spoke with General Keys (Gen. Ronald E. Keys, COMACC) in late September and discussed the role he would like me to play and I feel very good about it. I really see two key responsibilities here. I have a responsibility to General Keys as his Air National Guard spokesperson and advisor. I also see myself as General McKinley's (Lt. Gen. Craig R. McKinley - Air National Guard Director) representative to ACC. Of course, I won't provide

advice in a vacuum. I'll offer the corporate advice of the Air National Guard with the guidance of the Director and the Chief of the National Guard Bureau (Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum.)

Titshaw continued,

"The issues General Keys as COMACC is interested in are aligned with our interests. It's about people, it's about expeditionary operations, it's about recapitalization, it's about getting our organizations right (sized), and finally, it's about transformation. These are his five focus areas and when I compare them with the ANG strategic plan, they sync up almost word for word."

Speaking of people, recapitalization, and transformation, the USAF will lose 40,000 people over the next two years to pay bills. I asked the General if the ANG would follow suit.

Titshaw responded,

"This nation, since its inception, has been a nation with a strong militia. It has relied heavily upon the National Guard. The Cold War that evolved after the Korean conflict, presented us with a new paradigm, a new construct for our armed forces. To meet the threats posed by the Warsaw Pact, we

required a large forward presence of active duty forces. This requirement fundamentally altered the relationship between active forces and the National Guard. Because the nation needed a large standing force to counter the threat, the National Guard was, in some ways, neglected. We were relegated to a strategic reserve, on the bottom of the modernization chain, and we lost capability."

"Today we're in a totally different kind of war. We are facing a different kind of threat. The National Guard is very well constructed to counter this new threat. It seems strange that in the middle of a war we are bringing down our forces, I don't think that has been done before. It

has us asking ourselves 'why are we doing this?' Once again, that is our role to tell the American public what's important in this war. The (US) Air Force is going to draw down 40,000 people in the next two years; significant pain for them. They have a tremendous amount of turbulence going on; ACC specifically does, because we've got to get this right. We've got to fight the fight and at the same time, reorganize and restructure and take this cut and do it on the fly. We've got to make sure that the positions that are cut are the right ones and we cannot affect military readiness to a negative degree by cutting people, so it's got to be done very carefully."

"What General Blum has said is what most of us would agree with. If we are to take this cut on

the active duty side during a war, why not take out an insurance policy and keep the Reserves where they are or even grow them because it would be much more economical to do that. General McKinley, in agreement with General Blum, has said rather than taking manpower cuts, we should take a monetary cut. We can find a way to pay the bill somewhere, but we can't cut



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Carmen Maldonado, FLNG JFHQ/PA

Major Gen. Douglas Burnett, the Adjutant General of Florida, with the assistance of Mrs. Gretchen Titshaw, pinned the new rank of major general on Emmett R. Titshaw, Jr. during a historic ceremony held at St. Francis Barracks Sept. 12. It was the first pinning of a Florida Air National Guard two-star conducted at St Francis Barracks.

people. It's the wrong thing to do."

"I believe we have a huge opportunity to pick up some of the people who will be forced to leave active duty. The Air Force already paid for their training, they are good people and they are not going to be forced out because they are bad people. If the Air Guard is forced to take reductions also, we are not going to be able to take any of them in. By keeping our strength where it is, or hopefully growing it a little bit, we have the opportunity to recruit many highly talented and capable Airmen."

Continued on page 24...

Continued from page 23...

I asked Titshaw if the Air Guard approach to bill paying would put us at odds with the active duty and the Air Force Reserve.

Titshaw nodded and said, "There's a little friction because of that. I would be the first to agree. In my conversations with our active duty counterparts, they don't all understand what we are doing to take the cut.

We are going to pay our share of the bill, and it should be our decision on how we pay that bill. We're choosing not to do it with people." He continued, "Recapitalization is a huge problem for the Air Force right now. We're trading people for new equipment. Not just the F-22; we've got the F-35 program, space programs, etc. that need tremendous recapitalization.

The procurement holiday of the 1990's, when we took the so-called peace dividend after the Soviet Union disintegrated, has come back to haunt us big time. These are tough decisions. There's a lot of pain and a lot of turbulence out there."

"We need calm heads with a vision who can take this organization, and I'm talking about the

whole Air Force and the Air National Guard together as a Total Force, to take it in the right direction to make sure we get this thing right."

As the ANG Advisor to COMACC, Titshaw will have to deal with a broadened focus, a national focus vice a Florida-centric one.

I asked the General how the ANG planned to recruit all of these good people as some of our own units are undergoing BRAC. I offered Connecticut and the 103rd Fighter Wing, an ACC gained unit, as an example.

Said Titshaw, "I think we are going to have a hard time recruiting people to an enclave; I think people want a mission that's important.

I think those organizations who were BRAC'ed are going to have a very difficult time recruiting and I worry about that.

General McKinley and General Blum speak about bridges; what we need to get those BRAC'ed units to the next weapon system or next flying mission and they are working diligently on those bridges.

We will ensure those units have a relevant mission until new weapons systems come on line."

Brig. Gen. Balskus appointed as the Assistant Adjutant General for Air

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. – Major Gen. Douglas Burnett, Adjutant General of Florida, announced Sept. 13, the appointment of Brig. Gen. Joseph G. Balskus as the Assistant Adjutant General for Air, Florida Air National Guard.

Balskus replaces Major Gen. Emmett R. Titshaw who has moved on to serve as the Air National Guard's Assistant to the Commander, Air Combat Command. Balskus previously served in the State Headquarters, St. Augustine, as the commander, Florida Air National Guard and will continue in that capacity.

Balskus' appointment as Assistant Adjutant General-Air was effective October 1, 2006.

Balskus joined the United States Air Force in 1979, graduating from officer training school as a distinguished graduate while earning his second lieutenant gold bars.

He was assigned as an air weapons controller, serving tours in Korea and Saudi Arabia, before being assigned as an associate professor of aerospace studies at The Citadel, Military College of South Carolina.

He joined the Florida Air National Guard in 1990 as a traditional Guardsman and held several positions at the 125th Fighter Wing and State Headquarters before being named Chief of Staff in 2001, Commander in 2004 and now Assistant Adjutant General-Air. His Senate confirmation to brigadier general was official June 23, 2003.

Of interest, prior to returning to full-time military duty in 2001, he was the owner and chief executive officer of BalWink Enterprises, one of the largest home-health nursing agencies in North Florida, and was recognized by inclusion in Who's Who of American Chief Executive Officers. He earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees from Eastern Illinois University in speech pathology and audiology.

Balskus was named as a Distinguished Alumnus of EIU just this year.

Plans in the works for celebrating the 60th anniversary of the FLANG

As mentioned in the commander's column, the FLANG HQ has embarked on a project to celebrate our 60th anniversary AND ensure some of the last 60 years of FLANG historical events are captured for all time.

We need your help to complete this monumental task. We need to gather stories, memoirs and records of events that were important to you as a member of the Florida Air National Guard from the date of original activation in 1947 to the present day.

We are in the process of dedicating a section of our Headquarters Archive Library to the personal written history and memoirs of anyone who served during that time period. Only a portion of our history will ever be

recorded unless all of us who served will write or record those personal accounts of what happened.

Previous publications such as "Florida's Air Force", written by Bob Hawk and "Commemorative History of The Florida Air National Guard, 1946-1982", by members of the 125th Fighter Wing, have covered a portion of our history through 1990.

Many great stories in our 60 year history have never been told and 16 years of incredible growth and achievement has yet to be captured.

Anyone who has already published a book or a computer generated document of their memoirs can submit a copy to HQ, FLANG for inclusion in the proposed Archives.

Submissions can be sent to HQ, FLANG, P.O. Box 1008, St. Augustine, FL 32085-1008, Attention: 60th Year Anniversary Committee. Call 904-823-0604 or email frank.kozdras@fljack.ang.af.mil with questions.

Also, as we prepare to celebrate our 60th anniversary in September, 2007, the committee chairman suggested organizing a FLANG anniversary choir to provide voice to our national anthem and other selections deemed appropriate for the occasion.

Those interested please contact Col. (ret) Frank Kozdras at 904-823-0604 or Senior Master Sgt. Tom Weldon (904) 741-7152 for details.

Campbell named Chief of Staff

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. – Major Gen. Douglas Burnett, the Adjutant General of Florida, recently announced the selection of Charles M. Campbell to serve as the Florida Air National Guard Chief of Staff.

The position is one of two general officer positions in the FLANG leadership hierarchy. Campbell was promoted to the rank of brigadier general Friday, Sept. 8, at St. Francis Barracks in St. Augustine. Major Gen. Burnett and Campbell's wife Cynthia pinned on the new rank.

Campbell most recently served as the commander of the Southeast Air Defense Sector, Tyndall AFB, Fla. Campbell became a member of the Florida Air National Guard in May 1987, and served in several key leadership positions at the 125FW, SEADS and the 325FW Associate Unit before joining the State Headquarters staff in his new assignment.



Photo by Ms. Debbie Cox, FLNG JFHQ/PA



Chief's Counsel

By Chief Master Sgt. Susan E. Shonka
HQ FLANG Command Chief

Taking my fitness walk the other evening, I followed the same three mile path I always take. This evening was different. I just returned that afternoon from Ft. McCoy, Wis., an Army training site where our 202nd Red Horse ADVON team was completing some training prior to deploying overseas.

I had the opportunity to ride along with our Airmen on a convoy training scenario. This day was a "train for safety" day. We went out twice on a seven mile trip – the first time with blank ammo, the second with live rounds. As we drove along at 15 mph, we encountered "dummies" posed alongside the road, small villages with enemy fire and several other setups where we had to abandon our vehicles while injured Airmen were treated for blown off arms and hands. I volunteered to be administered the "stick" (I.V. needle) but I can say, fortunately, I wasn't carded to be one of the injured. Our Airmen had already received training at Ft McCoy to administer IVs and had been giving the "stick" to their fellow Airmen as practice.

Dinner our first night was Hamburger Mac eaten in a tent standing up with our ballistic protective vests on. As I left the Red Horse Airmen that night to go to billeting, our Airmen were looking forward to moving back the next night to barracks after spending the week living in tents. Living in tents meant even

a short trip to the port-a-potty in the middle of the night required putting on the ballistic vest and helmet. As we drove off, the sirens started and we just missed having to run for a shelter.

Leaving the next morning, our flight was delayed due to a thunderstorm. I was relieved to know that our Airmen had at least slept in dry barracks with indoor plumbing. I was also relieved to know that unlike the first group of Transportation Airmen we deployed from the 125FW a few years ago that supported convoy work in Iraq with no CONUS training, these Airmen were getting it.

At the airport I observed several soldiers on their way home for a couple of weeks of leave. It reminded me of last month when I was part of the welcome home group for our 125th Security Forces. It also brought back thoughts of just a couple of weeks ago, while TDY in Washington, being able to go to BWI in Baltimore to see our Airmen from the 290th off as they were passing through on their way to the desert.

Back to my walk...I passed a house where some neighbors have taken a palm tree stump and placed a lantern on top. For a second, I had a flashback. It looked very similar to the enemy targets the trainers set up during the convoy training and I wanted to yell to Staff Sgt. Crystal Register, our gunner, to hit the target. Then I remembered that I was safe from harm, only on my walk, protected and going home to my family and thankful to

have so many brave men and women like those in the 202nd who are keeping me that way.

As the holiday season approaches I ask you to remember our deployed troops and give thanks.

Safety Matters

Submitted by Master Sgt. Dana Gaffney
125FW Safety Office

The 2006 4th Quarter 125th Fighter Wing Outstanding Safety Performance Award was presented to Mr. John Durden, State of Florida Maintenance worker, 125th Civil Engineer Squadron.

While working in Building Six the afternoon of Sept 19, Mr. Durden was notified by a building occupant that something was burning. He investigated and located a fire in the mechanical room and immediately pulled the fire alarm and then turned off power to the building. His heroic actions resulted in the swift evacuation of all occupants in the building and minimum fire damage to the mechanical room.

He was awarded a certificate and a \$25.00 gift card to Outback Steakhouse for his efforts. Congratulations Mr. Durden!

If you witness a safe practice or a 'safety attitude,' nominate that individual by submitting an AF Form 1206, Nomination for Award, to the 125FW Safety Office. You can send it by email to wingsafety@fljack.af.mil or call 904-741-7015.

Chaplain's Corner

By Lt. Col. Steve Thompson
125FW Chaplain

I preached in a recent sermon what I called the three roots of ministry. They are:

1. a great task!
2. with a great love!
3. for a great God!

In summary, Christian ministry always engages us in significant efforts on behalf of very special people to the glory of an awesome God. It is dawning on me as I prepare to deploy with our 202nd Read Horse Squadron how our deployments in support of our nation's Global War on Terrorism share these attributes.

First, we are surely involved in a great task! The victories we win "over there" represent battles that will never be fought here. I cringe every time I hear of an IED exploding near one of our convoys. However, my heart is so grateful that those evil people whose life's goal is to destroy our way of life are not setting off deadly charges along our children's bus routes!

Next, we are loved! I am overwhelmed by the well wishes and promises of prayer that I have received. My church family has been more than wonderful. Their commitment to take care of my wife encourages me more than I can express. My

dentist even offered to come to my house and cut my grass while I am deployed! A stream of affection and appreciation refreshes those like us who are involved in a mission like ours.

Finally, we serve a great God! Do you remember the catastrophic predictions that preceded and accompanied our troops into harm's way? We were told by the politically motivated prophets of doom that our troops were untrained, inexperienced; ill equipped and would face certain defeat at the hands of a superior enemy. We would become bogged down in a Vietnam like conflict exacerbated by chemical and nuclear weapons.

None of their tales of gloom materialized! The war was won with a minimal loss of life and peace is being accomplished. Freedom loving people all over the Middle East are looking toward Iraq and Afghanistan with the hope that they too may one day have the opportunity to choose their own destinies.

Do you think for a moment that all of this happened by accident, mistake or coincidence? Not me! I believe with all of my heart that we have wonderful people committed to a worthy mission and who are well appreciated by those we serve and for whose freedoms we secure. That is because we have a great God who watches over us and guides our efforts. What a great day it is to be an Airman and serve in our Florida Air National Guard! God Bless You! Chaplain.

Family Readiness *"Supporting our Airmen"*

By Mrs. Robin Severson
FLANG State Family Readiness Coordinator

Once our airmen leave for deployment, we are left with time to decide what to do and how to support our men and women who are deployed. Here in Florida, we have organizations that support us both during and after deployment. Some of these organizations are:

- American Red Cross
- USO
- Work Source
- Veterans Center

Other organizations contact us to help or "adopt" a unit, such as the recently deployed 202nd Red Horse Squadron and the 290th Joint Communications Squadron. They are:

- Daughters of the American Revolution
- Embry Riddle Aeronautical University Students
- United States Post Office

Through their generous donations, time and effort, they give our Airmen and their families the much needed love and support that see's them through the time away from home.

Saying thank you to these organizations is also just as important as saying goodbye to our families. Letting them know how deeply we appreciate their care and concern solidifies the patriotism in all of us.

Take time in your daily schedule to look around and you will find those that support our Airmen time and time again.

For more information on these organizations, contact Family Readiness (904) 741-7027.

Spotlight on...

125th Fighter Wing Financial Management Section

Mileage or Transportation

A####06/26/05 32200 JACKSONTYNDALL AFB, A 298	\$120.69
TY### 07/09/05 John Doe AFB, 35555 MONTGOM A 193	\$78.17
TY### 07/10/05 36104 MONTGOM31829 COLUMBU A 90	\$36.45

Mileage or Transportation Total: \$235.31

Comments

Rental car not authorized. A supplemental voucher can be filed with amended orders.

Computed By:
ANGELINA.SANDOVAL

Audited By:
CATHERINE.CHACON

Amount Paid:
\$1,371.06

This quarter's spotlighted section is the 125th Fighter Wing Financial Management section. Within FM, there are three main focus areas: Accounting (travel), Budget, and Pay (military and civilian.) The two areas that get the most visibility are Travel and Pay.

Dispelling the myths about Travel Pay

1. There is a shredder at the bottom of the FM Drop Box in Building Six.

No. However, beyond the drop box there is a team of about eight to nine people who work on military pay transactions and travel vouchers.

2. You need to turn in three copies of the travel voucher along with three copies of your orders.

The Finance section needs only one copy of each item (orders, voucher, receipts, etc. ...).

3. Only one person actually looks at, works and pays a travel voucher.

Actually it varies, but at a minimum three different people work each voucher: the person who logs the voucher in, the person who computes it, the person who audits it, and Lt. Col. Burkett. The only functions that could involve the same person are the logging in and computing functions.

What happens once a travel voucher is shredded...um...once it reaches the Finance office?

Master Sgt. Chacon, travel pay supervisor, suggests having someone from the Finance office look at your voucher before turning it in. "Many times people drop it off without having someone look at it," said Chacon. "If you hand it to one of us, we can look at it before you leave to ensure that all of the signatures are correct and so on."

Lifecycle of a Voucher

Step 1: Logging

The voucher is logged in the same day it is dropped off. Every single piece of paper accompanying each voucher is checked when it is logged in. Vouchers are sequenced as they come in. The only vouchers that get pushed to the front of the priority list are supplemental vouchers.

Step 2: Computing

The voucher is then computed in the system. The person computing the voucher makes sure each item on the voucher matches what was authorized on the travel order.

"We try to pay as much as we can on the voucher and not send it back," says Chacon. "If there was something not paid on the voucher, the person computing will add in the remarks section (see graphic page 28) of the Travel Voucher Summary what wasn't paid and how to remedy it.

Step 3: **Auditing and Approving**

The auditor checks it for accuracy. If anything about the voucher is wrong (fund cite numbers are wrong, dates mismatch, inaccurate locations, etc.) then it goes back to the person who computed the voucher and the process starts all over. If everything is fine, it is forwarded for approval by Lt. Col. Burkett and then it is off to DFAS in Limestone, Maine for payment.

How long does it take for one travel voucher to be processed? "It depends," says Chacon. "It can take a week and half or it can take the full 30 days depending on how many vouchers we receive in the office at any given time."

Travel pay is responsible for all FLANG units with the exception of SEADS. That is approximately 1700 potential travel voucher customers for a team of three staff members (Staff Sgt. Ozbaltaci, is deployed). Since the travel pay section averages about 560 vouchers a month if you calculate 18 working days a month (minus two for down days) that equates to approximately 31 travel vouchers a day that have to be logged, computed, audited and approved. With so many vouchers and a limited staff, the travel pay section is easlity affected when they lose a member temporarily for a deployment or other reason.

Pay Brief

Currently there are four full-time pay technicians assigned to the payroll function. If you've ever wondered who actually "pays" you, see the breakout below for that information. For efficiency, each Flight, Squadron or Group, including the GSU's, has a dedicated technician that supports it for payroll purposes.

For example, when orders for pay are submitted, if the orders are from the 125th Mission Suport Group, then those orders are given to the technician who handles military pay for the Mission Support Group. "This allows for continuity within the system," said Master Sgt. Drew Summers, supervisor for the pay section. "If a phone call needs to be made because of a discrepancy, the technician who is most familiar with a particular unit will be the one checking on it."

\$ - Master Sgt. Doris L. Grey - 125SFS, 125FW (HQ), 125CF, 125CES, 125LRS, 125OG

\$ - Tech. Sgt. Christine M. Hale - 125MDG, State HQ, 125MSF, 125MOF, 125MXG, 125MXS, 125AMX, 125SVF

\$ - Staff Sgt. Jacob L. Lemon - SEADS, 325FW Assoc. Unit, 159WF, WRTC, 125MSG, 114ROPS

\$ - Staff Sgt. Paul E. Feltes, III - 290JCSS, 125OSF, 159FS, 125FW Det 1, 202RHS

Members of the 125th Fighter Wing Financial Management Section are pictured in their work area in Building Six at the 125th Fighter Wing Sept. 10. Due to the high number of geographically separated units (GSU's) and subsequent large number of dispersed personnel assigned to the FLANG, the staff process the equivalent of two ANG Wing's worth of pay and travel transactions at any given time.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas

Promotions

To Lieutenant Colonel

Colby J. Kelsch, 125SFS

To Second Lieutenant

Ryan C. Strayve, 159FS

To Senior Master Sgt.

Emilio Gelfenstein, HQ FLANG

Michael A. Hall, 125MXS

Jerry M. Saddler, Jr., 202RHS

Robert R. Swann, Jr., 125MOF

To Master Sgt.

Alfred Adams, 125SVF

Rexford C. Arnold, 290JCSS

Judy A. Butler-Mcquire, SEADS Det 2

Lisa L. Couling, SEADS Det 2

David R. Franklin, 125CES

Terry W. Garnet, 125AMX

Courtney A. Howard-Kirby, 290JCSS

Michael W. Judd, 202RHS

Dennis P. Kash, 202RHS

Bruce S. Kollmann, 202RHS

Alan S. Ladd, 114ROPS

William H. Maule, 125CES

Jose R. Morales-Alcaide, 290JCSS

John C. Novak, 202RHS

Jeffrey R. Ohlsen, 125FW Det 1

Matthew A. Plock, 290JCSS

Lydia E. Rodriguez, 125MOF

Walter F. Swindell, 202RHS

Dale A. Tryhorn, 114ROPS

To Technical Sgt.

Kelly A. Caskin, 125LRS

Robert W. Crotts, 114ROPS

Melissa A. Davis, 125SFS

David L. Gaskins, 125MXG

Edward L. Hamilton, 125CES

Brandy J. Hiner, 125MDG

Thomas E. Hollis, Jr., 125SFS

Jeraline A. Humphrey, 202RHS

Jimmie L. Lee, 125LRS

Thomas A. Lindsay, 202RHS

Kim Lovejoy, 202RHS

Annette P. Santiago, 290JCSS

Michael D. Stephens, 125LRS

Slychet P. Stone, 125MSF

Roger S. Tootle, 202RHS

To Staff Sgt.

Ramon A. Acevedo, 125MXS

Karl R. Coburn, 125CF

Scott M. Crawford, 125STUF

Jason M. Cross, 290JCSS

Jennifer L. Davidson, 202RHS

Paul A. Farris, 125SFS

Jacqueline N. Haagenson, 125CF

Aaron J. Hartley, 125MXS

John M. Hatfield, 202RHS

Brittani J. Johnson, 125MXS

Jerome Johnson, 125CES

Crystal L. Kincade, 125SFS

David M. Lakoskey, 125MXS

Robert E. Lee, 125AMX

Michael C. Nathan, 125MXS

Johnathan R. Pavan, 290JCSS

Jaymie L. Spector, 290JCSS

Hanika J. Torio, 125MSG

Jerald W. Washington, Jr., 125MXS

To Senior Airman

Joshua R. Anderson, 125CES

Bianca T. Beck, 125MXS

George K. Black, Jr., 125CF

Brandon T. Jennings, 125CES

David J. Johnson, 290JCSS

Nicholas R. Mistisshen, 125SFS

Keona D. M. Newsom, 202RHS

Matthew E. Osborn, 202RHS

Justin W. Phillips, 125LRS

Luis A. Rivera, 125AMX

Manuel D. Santana, 290JCSS

Welcomes

Lt Col Brian E. English, SEADS Det 2
Lt Col David B. Smith, SEADS
Major Gary A. Helefeldt, 114ROPS
Major John H. Waldbillig, Jr., WRTC
2Lt Eric J. Stringer, 125FW
MSgt John M. Cowden, SEADS
TSgt Christopher F. Bailey, SEADS
TSgt Chad E. Wedikind, 125MDG
SSgt Kevin Barfield, 202RHS
SSgt Jason C. Emery, 114ROPS
SSgt Paul E. Feltes III, 125FW
SSgt Victor M. Ferreira, 290JCSS
SSgt Lucky R. Foate, 290JCSS
SSgt Carlos Garcia, Jr., 125FW
SSgt Andrew J. Iyog, 290JCSS
SSgt Aaron D. Jamison, 290JCSS
SSgt Gregory M. Lee, 125MXS
SSgt Maribel J. Rodriguez, 125OSF
SSgt Ryan D. Stewart, 125MXS
SrA Fernando E. Alvear, 125SVF
SrA Raymond A. Bell, 125CES
SrA Benjamin E. Hein, 202RHS
SrA Jamel T. Hooker, 290JCSS
SrA Richard A. Quiles, 125MXS
SrA Jose F. Rosario, 290JCSS
SrA Phillip L. Rycraft, 125CES
SrA Tyler R. Straate, 125AMX
SrA Matthew A. Teitsort, 125MXS
SrA Ernest L. Trivett, 290JCSS
A1C Joseph C. Joyal, 202RHS
A1C Nicholas S. Ramsey, 125MXS
A1C Keedric Woodard, 290JCSS

CCAF Grads: Oct 2006

Ivelisee Acostadelrio, SEADS
Carmina N. Aguirre, 125MDG
Michael S. Antis, 290JCSS
Conrad A. Berganza, 290JCSS
Kenneth M. Creager, 125MXS
Peter Dalessandro, 290JCSS
James R. Enfinger, SEADS Det 2
Wanda E. Garner, 290JCSS
Christina M. Gordon, 125LRS
Robert J. Harfman, 125MXS
Amos B. Kittleson, 125MXS
Veronica Laine, 114ROPS
Jacqueline E. Landrum, 125MDG

Farewells

Lt Col Michael S. Dickson, SEADS
Capt Randy D. Neville, 125MXG
SMSgt Brian M. Blaquiery, 125OSF
SMSgt John E. Tilley, 202RHS
MSgt James R. Anslow, SEADS Det 2
MSgt Guy L. Ashford, 114ROPS
MSgt Edward D. Carmen, 125FW Det 1
MSgt Craig T. Templin, 125FW Det 1
MSgt Darek S. Willmann, 202RHS
TSgt Andrew Armijo, 125LRS
TSgt Oscar Figueroa, 202RHS
TSgt Murphy K. Harper, 202RHS
TSgt Tommy C. McKenzie, Jr., 125CF
TSgt Gary Nickell, Jr., 202RHS
TSgt Alfred B. Perkins, II, 125AMX
TSgt Thomas P. Siebers, 125CES
TSgt William M. Story, Sr., 125MXS
TSgt Scott W. Taylor, 290JCSS
TSgt Joseph G. Turman, 202RHS
SSgt Randall W. Edenfield, 202RHS

Sheila J. Larry, SEADS Det 2
Steven E. Lewis, 125CES
Larry E. Linton, 202RHS
Jerry W. Merritt, 125MXS
John V. Mortenson, 125MXS
Kevin Needham, 125AMX
Toni L. Owens, SEADS Det 2
Robert R. Rich, III, 125CES
Arturo Rodriquez, Jr., 290JCSS
Violet A. Simmons, 125LRS
Tanya M. Tarantino, 114ROPS
Patrick E. Thomas, 125CES
Shawn A. Thorsen, 202RHS
Alan H. Wilkerson, 159WF
Shaun W. Withers, 125CF



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